

Tall Oaks From Little Acorns Grow

# WESTCO TELEPHONE COMPANY

*Congratulates The Cherokee Scout On Its 75th Anniversary*

### History . . .



L. J. PHILLIPS, District Manager

The Western Carolina Telephone Company was incorporated September 24, 1924.

In 1927, through acquisitions and mergers, the Bryson City Telephone Company, Jackson County Telephone Company and Rabun County Telephone Company were added to the Western Carolina system.

The Highlands Telephone Co. was purchased in 1928, Cullowhee Telephone Company in 1932, Hayesville Telephone Company in 1951, Carolina Mountain Telephone Company in 1952, and The Weaverville Electric Company in 1952.

The Murphy Telephone Exchange was bought from Southern Bell in 1952, Fontana Exchange in 1954, Robbinsville Telephone Exchange in 1956, Old Fort Telephone Company in 1961, and Andrews Telephone Company in 1962.

On July 1, 1962, Western Carolina Telephone Company formed a subsidiary company called Westco Telephone Company, which is composed of 15 telephone exchanges. The parent company has 11 exchanges.

In 1953, the company had a total of 8,654 telephones. At the end of July, 1964, Westco had a total of 25,000 telephones.

When Western Carolina bought Murphy from Southern Bell in 1952, they had 851 telephones in Chero-

okee County. As of July 30, there were 1700 telephones.

On September 1, 1964, EAS (Free Telephone Service) was established between Murphy and Clay County, which gives the people of Cherokee County and Clay County access to approximately 2400 telephones without a toll charge.

The equipment has been ordered for a new exchange to be located at Suit, N. C. It will have approximately 300 to 400 telephones when completed.

Engineering work has been completed to install direct buried cables in the Murphy Exchange to enlarge the size of the Murphy Exchange to approximately 2500 telephones. Engineering work has begun on the conversion of the Andrews Exchange to dial service.

When all the work is completed in the expansion program, there will be approximately 5,000 telephones in Cherokee and Clay Counties.

The Western Carolina and Westco Telephone Companies own and operate approximately 350 miles of long distance lines.

Ninety (90) miles of this network is composed of micro-wave circuits.

The two companies combined serve approximately 4100 square miles of Western North Carolina.



MRS. EULALA S. COOK, Cashier



MRS. EDNA A. BARNETT, Secretary



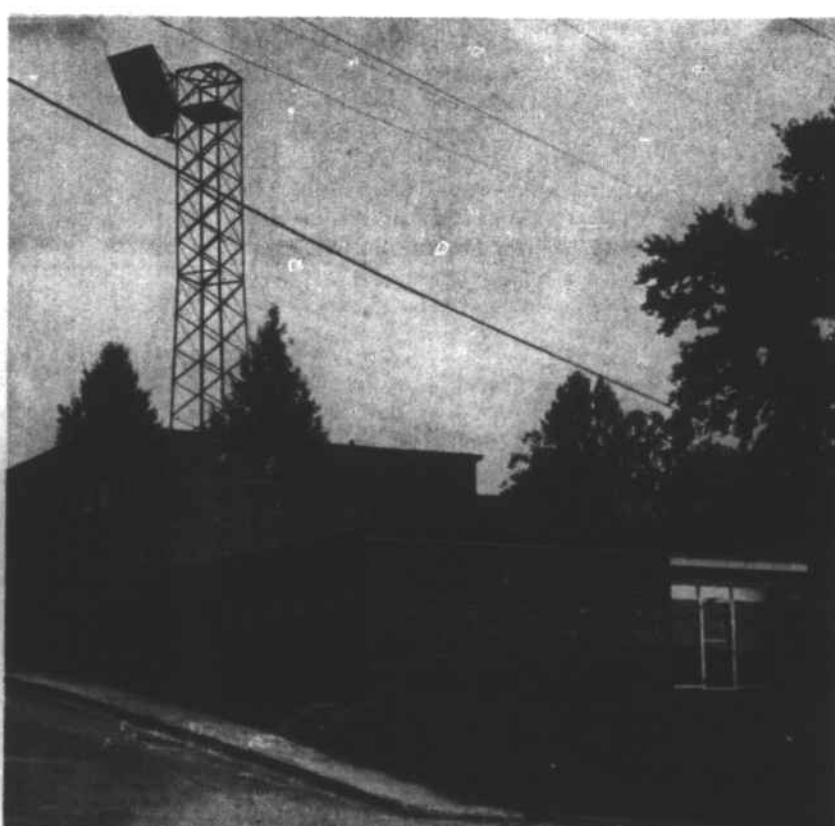
Intricate array of electronic equipment.



MRS. RUTH A. MARR, Ass't Cashier



GEORGE WORLEY, Equipment Supervisor



Outside view of Westco Telephone Company



Maintenance Crew (L-R) Gerald Stiles, Ralph Davis, Ben Beavers, Robert Hampton, Bill Plemmons and George Worley



Clyde McNabb

## WESTCO . . . WATCH IT GROW . . .